

Journal

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

In the State of North-Carolina,

HOLDEN IN

CHRIST'S CHURCH,

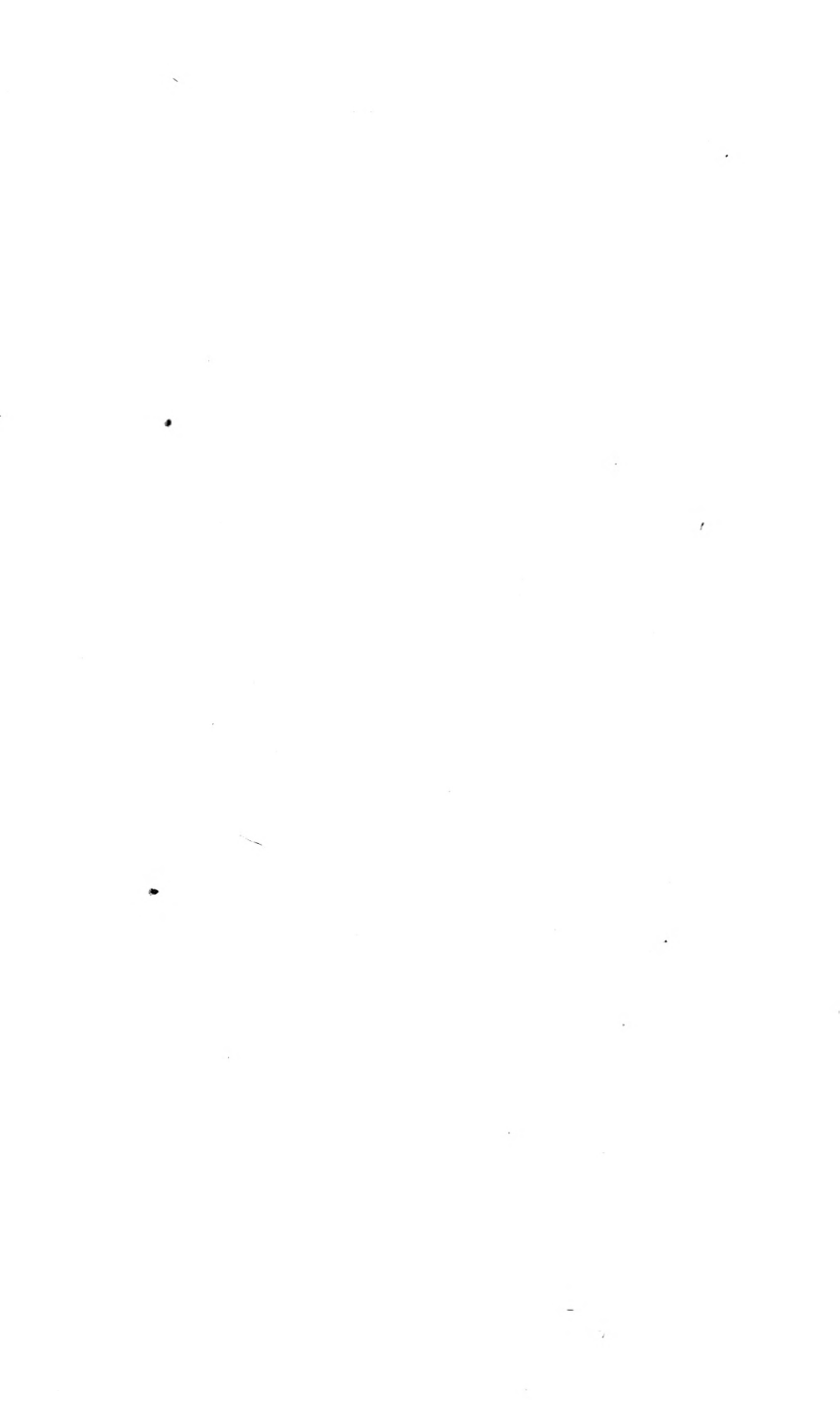
Newbern,

*On Thursday, May 17th, Friday, May 18th, Saturday,
May 19th, and Monday, May 21st.*

1827.

NEWBERN, N. C.
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1827.



LIST OF ATTENDING MEMBERS.

CLERGY.

Right Rev. John S. Ravenscroft, D. D. *ex-officio* President.

Rev'd. John Avery, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Edenton.

Rev'd. Adam Empie, Rector of St. James's Church, Wilmington.

Rev'd. George W. Freeman, Deacon.

Rev'd. William M. Green, Rector of St. Matthew's, Hillsborough, and St. Mary's, Orange County.

Rev'd. R. S. Mason, Rector of Christ's Church, Newbern.

Rev'd. H. M. Mason, Rector of St. John's Church, Fayetteville.

Rev'd. P. B. Wiley, Deacon.

Rev'd. Thomas Wright, Rector of St. Luke's, Salisbury, and Christ's Church, Rowan County.

The Rev'd. R. J. Miller, and the Rev'd. E. Brainerd, were not present at the sessions of the Convention.

LAITY.

Gavin Hogg, Christ's Church, Raleigh.

Dr. James F. McRea, }

George W. B. Burgwyn, } St. James's Church, Wilmington.
Levin Lane, }

Dr. Thomas H. Wright, }

Hon. John R. Donnell, }

Hon. John H. Bryan, } Christ's Church, Newbern.

Francis Hawks, }

Eli Hoyt, } St. Peter's Church, Washington.
Abner P. Neale, }

James H. Norwood, }

Francis L. Hawks, } St. Matthew's Church, Hillsborough.

Stephen L. Ferrand } St. Luke's Church, Salisbury.

Shadrack P. Allen, }

Samuel W. Lucas, } St. James's Church, Greenville.

William E. Anderson, St. Mary's Chapel, Orange County.

Jarvis B. Buxton, Zion Chapel, Beaufort County.

Benjamin Patrick, Trinity Chapel, Beaufort County,

Jesse B. Bryan, St. Thomas's Church, Bath.

JOURNAL.

Newbern, Thursday, May 17th, 1827. }
12 past 9 o'clock A. M. }

THIS being the day appointed for the meeting of the Convention, the Members thereof assembled in the Church for the purpose of organizing : the Right Reverend John S. Ravenscroft, D. D. acting as President, and the Reverend Richard S. Mason, as Secretary *pro tempore*.

The list of the Clergy was called over, and the following were found to be present :

Rev'd. John Avery, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Edenton.

Rev'd. Adam Empie, Rector of St. James's Church, Wilmington.

Rev'd. George W. Freeman, Deacon.

Rev'd. William M. Green, Rector of St. Matthew's Church, Hillsborough.

Rev'd. Richd. S. Mason, Rector of Christ's Church, Newbern.

Rev'd. Philip B. Wiley, Deacon of Christ's Church, Elizabeth City.

Rev'd. Thomas Wright, Rector of St. Luke's Church, Salisbury.

The certificates of Lay Delegation were then presented, and the following gentlemen were admitted to seats as Members of the Convention :

Abner P. Neale, St. Peter's Church, Washington.

Samuel W. Lucas, St. James's Church, Greenville.

Francis L. Hawks, St. Matthew's Church, Hillsborough.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for a Secretary, when the Rev. Richard S. Mason was elected.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, that an Assistant Secretary be appointed ; and Francis L. Hawks was duly elected.

The Convention being thus organized, adjourned to attend Divine Service.

Morning Prayer was performed by the Rev'd. Thomas Wright, and a Sermon preached by the Rev'd. William M. Green, from Ephes. I. part of 21. and 22. Verses.

After Divine Service, the Convention assembled for business, when the following gentlemen produced certificates of delegation, and were, on motion, admitted to seats as members of the Convention, viz :

Dr. Stephen L. Ferrand, from St. Luke's Church, Salisbury.

Hon John R. Donnell, }

Hon. John H. Bryan, } from Christ's Church, Newbern.

Francis Hawks, }

Dr. James F. McRea, }

George W. B. Burgwyn, } from St. James's Church, Wil-

Levin Lane, } mington.

Dr. Thomas H. Wright, }

William E. Anderson, from St. Mary's Chapel, Orange County.

James H. Norwood, a delegate from St. Matthew's Church, Hillsborough, and Eli Hoyt, from St. Peter's Church, Wilmington, appeared and took their seats.

The Right Rev'd. President then read the following

Episcopal Journal.

My Reverend and Lay Brethren of the Convention,

THAT I am again permitted to meet the Representatives of the Church, in their annual session, and to join my counsels with yours, for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, and for the spiritual welfare and prosperity of the Diocese, is to me a source of high gratification, and of encreased thankfulness to Him, under the direction of whose wise and good Providence, all things are ordered for the fulfilment of his purposes of mercy and admonition to his creatures.—It has been an eventful year, to this portion of the Lord's vineyard, my brethren, and one full of anxiety to myself; and demands from all, such a review of the improvement or neglect of the divine goodness, both individually and collectively, as shall lead to an amended and more faithful application of the talents committed to our trust. This, I hope, we all come prepared to engage in, with an eye single to the glory of God; for, only as this is the predominant principle of our conduct, are we authorised to expect His blessing, "without whom, nothing is strong, nothing is holy,"—and from whom alone, "all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed."

That you may enter upon this very serious and responsible duty, with the greater advantage, I proceed to lay before you, in order, the course of my official services and observations on the affairs of the Diocese, during the past conventional year.

My first visit was directed to the northern section of the Diocess, and on the 19th of August, I officiated in St. John's Church, Williamsborough, assisted by the Rev. William Green, from Hillsborough, and by the Rev. Mr. Brainerd, the pastor of the congregation. Morning prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Green; after which, I preached to a small, but attentive congregation. In the evening, prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Brainerd, and a sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Green.

1826 On Sunday, the 20th, the services in the forenoon, were adapted to the particular occasion of Mrs. Sneed's funeral, an aged lady, and a communicant of the Church, recently deceased. Prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Brainerd; after which, I preached on the occasion, and concluded the service at the grave.

In the afternoon, divine service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Green—the ante-communion service, by the Rev. Mr. Brainerd; after, which, I confirmed two persons—preached to a large and engaged congregation, and administered the holy communion to about thirty communicants.

On the 23rd of August, I proceeded to Warrenton; and on the 26th, according to previous notice, morning prayer was offered up by the Rev. Mr. Brainerd; after which, I confirmed one person, and preached to a small, but serious audience.

Sunday the 27th, divine service was performed by the Rev. Philip B. Wiley, of Elizabeth City—who met me here the day before; after which, I preached to a numerous congregation, and, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Brainerd and Mr. Wiley, administered the holy communion to the members of the Church, and to several of other denominations.

In the afternoon, the service was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Brainerd, and a sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Wiley.

From the information obtained during this visit, I learn that considerable dissatisfaction prevails, particularly among the members of St. John's Church, at the small proportion of his time, which their pastor allots to them, in the way of private intercourse. This is acknowledged by Mr. Brainerd to be the case, and his excuse is, the necessity he is at present under, and unforeseen by him, of giving his whole time, as a teacher, in a large seminary for female education, which his family have established in this place—he assures me, however, it is only a temporary necessity, which he is exerting himself to remove, and hopes speedily to accomplish.—From Warrenton, I returned to Raleigh, and arrived there on the 29th.

My next visit being directed to the congregations in the county of Orange and of Caswell, I left Raleigh on the 11th of Sept., and proceeded to St. Jude's, where I performed divine

service, and preached on the forenoon of the 12th, to a small collection of the neighbourhood.

On the 12th, service was again performed, and a sermon preached to a larger congregation.

The prospects of the Church, in this section of the Diocese, at no period promising, are not less favourable than heretofore. There is, however, no accession to their original numbers, nor any prospect of increase. Their sole dependance for the services of the Church, is on occasional visits from some of our clergy, which are very rare; and on my annual visit to them, which is necessarily short, and confined, as to opportunities of private intercourse. Notwithstanding this unfavourable state of things however, I am gratified in being able to state, that the attachment of the members to the Church, appears to be more and more confirmed, as they have obtained a clearer knowledge of her character. These, however, are fast declining into the vale of years, and there can be but small expectation of retaining their families steadfast in their profession, without more frequent opportunities for religious instruction, than they at present possess.

On the 14th, I left St. Jude's, for Milton, in Caswell county, and on Saturday, the 16th, performed divine service, and preached both in the forenoon and afternoon, in the Academy, to a small but attentive congregation.

Sunday, the 17th, performed divine service, preached, and administered the holy communion to eleven persons, in the forenoon, the house filled, and the congregation still and attentive.

In the afternoon, I again read prayers—baptised an infant, and preached to a smaller collection of people.

The condition of this part of my charge, remains without any visible improvement. The members and friends of the Church are few in number, do not feel themselves competent to maintain a clergyman, and from their remote situation, can rarely obtain the services of any of our clergy. The Rev. Mr. Green, who is the nearest, visits them generally on the five Sundays in the year, for which they express themselves very grateful. And so far as I am able to judge, and from their own declarations, they continue to retain that preference for our communion, which led them at first to organise, and to request to be received into union with the Church in this Diocese; but it is a melancholy fact, that there is not one male, and but two female communicants belonging to the congregation, within my knowledge.

After remaining some days in the neighbourhood of Milton, I left it on the 22d, and proceeded to Judge Cameron's; being my next appointment—where, on Saturday the 23rd, I performed divine service, and preached in the chapel built by that Gen-

leman, near his dwelling house, to a thin congregation, the day being rainy.

Sunday, the 24th, proved a very wet day. The Rev Mr. Green, nevertheless, arrived from Hillsborough, and performed the morning service ; after which, I preached and administered the holy communion, to about fifteen persons, white and coloured,—not more than a third of whom, belong to our communion.

My next appointment being at St. Mary's chapel, on the 27th, Divine service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Green ; after which, I preached to a small congregation.

On the 28th, Mr. Green again read prayers—during which, I confirmed two persons ; then preached, and administered the holy communion to twelve communicants ; after which, I went on to Hillsborough.

On Friday evening, the 29th, I returned at the house of Mr. Spier, where a respectable company was assembled.

Saturday, Sept. 30th, divine service was performed in the forenoon, in St. Matthew's Church, by the Rev. Mr. Green, and a sermon preached by myself ; and at night, the services were repeated, and in the same order.

Sunday, Oct. 1st, morning prayer was offered up by the Rev. Mr. Green ; during which, I confirmed three persons ; afterwards I preached, and administered the communion to the usual number of communicants. The orderly and devout deportment of this congregation, manifests the deep interest which is felt for the cause of Christ.

In the evening, the services were resumed, when I again preached to a very serious and attentive people ; and on the next day, returned to Raleigh.

Having received the requisite testimonials from the Standing Committee of the Diocess, in behalf of Mr. George W. Freeman, a candidate for orders, and having obtained the assistance of the Rev. Mr. Green, and the Rev. Mr. Brainerd, in his previous examination, I admitted the said George W. Freeman into the holy order of Deacons, on Sunday, Oct. 8th, in the Episcopal Chapel, Raleigh. Prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Green, a sermon preached by myself, and the holy communion administered.

The time appointed for the meeting of the General Convention drawing near, I conceived it my duty to attend it ; and that my very limited time for the duties of the Diocess, might be husbanded as much as possible, I determined on taking my route through the lower country, that I might visit as many of the Churches, as could be brought within the time, both in going and returning. On the 16th of October, therefore, I left Raleigh and proceeded to Tarborough, where, on the evening of

the 17th, at the request of some of the inhabitants, I performed divine service, and preached to a small collection of people. —The prospects which the Church once had in this place, have declined so far, that no reasonable expectation of its revival should be entertained.

From Tarborough I proceeded to Windsor, where, on the forenoon of the 19th, I performed divine service, and preached in the Court-house, to a large collection of people for that place; and again, in the evening, at the request of the inhabitants — Though as yet we have no regular congregation in this town; yet have we many friends: nowhere is the Liturgy more appropriately followed in the responses, or with more apparent interest in its sublime aspirations, and the truths of the Gospel listened to, with more earnest attention.

On the next day, I proceeded to Edenton, crossing the sound at Webb's ferry, and on the 21st, met the congregation in St. Paul's Church, for the services of the day. Morning prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Avery; after which, I preached — and at the conclusion of the services, administered the sacrament of holy baptism to Turner Wilson, a qualified adult, by immersion, in Edenton Bay — this mode being preferred by him, and readily assented to by me, both as scriptural, and authorised by the Rubric. The ceremony was witnessed by a goodly number of spectators; and it is greatly to be wished, that such calls were more frequent upon our clergy, which ever mode shall be preferred for its administration.

Sunday, the 22. morning prayer was offered by the Rev'd. Mr. Mason, of Newbern, who joined me at this place; after which I confirmed two persons, preached, and administered the holy communion.

In the afternoon, divine service was performed by myself, after which, the Rev'd. Mr. Mason preached.

Tuesday, the 24th, evening prayers were read by the Rev'd. Mr. Mason, after which, I preached to a small audience.

The congregations are not as numerous as is usual for this place, which is accounted for by the absence of some, and the indisposition of others, at this early period of the autumn, but they are as serious and attentive as I have ever found them.

On the 25th, I proceeded to Hartford, accompanied by the Rev'd. Mr. Avery, who performed the morning service, after which, I preached in the court-house to a small collection of the inhabitants and neighbourhood.

In the evening, the service was performed by the Rev'd. Mr. Wingfield, of Virginia, who had travelled from Portsmouth to meet me at this place; after which, I preached to nearly the same number of people.

There are in this place a few persons favourably inclined to the Church, to whose edification the Rev'd. Mr. Avery devotes a part of his time ; and the hope is entertained, that his labour has not been without effect.

On the 26th, I passed on to Elizabeth City, and on the evening of the 27th, performed divine service in the academy ; after which, the Rev'd. Mr. Mason preached. The next day, Mr. Mason and Mr. Avery left me, in order to be in time for the steam boat at Norfolk—their business requiring them to be in Philadelphia some days before the meeting of the General Convention.—The services intended for the evening of the 28th, were prevented by a heavy fall of rain.

Sunday, the 29th, morning prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Wingfield, in the Court-house ; after which, I confirmed three persons, preached, and administered the holy communion to fourteen persons, mostly members of the Church in this place. In the evening, prayers were again read by the Rev. Mr. Wingfield, and a sermon preached by myself.

From the numerous and attentive congregations which waited upon our ministrations in this place, it is evident that the cause of religion, and the interests of the Church, are gaining ground. A lot is purchased, and engagements entered into, for the erection of a Church ; and though the number of members is comparatively small, yet as they are men of information and influence, and manifest an affectionate interest in the cause of Christ, there is good hope, that the divine blessing will enable them to fulfil their pious intentions ; and before long, to free their pastor from the extra labour of the charge of the academy.

On the 30th, I left Elizabeth City, and, with the interval of a few days, spent in Portsmouth and Baltimore, proceeded to Philadelphia, where I arrived on the morning of the 7th, and attended the meetings of the General Convention, in St. Peter's Church, in that city.

Of the proceedings of that body, it is unnecessary that I should enter into any detail—seeing the journals are published and distributed. My duty being confined to calling your attention to the propositions submitted to the different state Conventions, on an abridgement of specified parts of the daily service at the discretion of the officiating minister ; and on removing an ambiguity said to exist in a particular Rubric, all of which will be laid before you.

My next appointments in the Diocess, being with the congregations left destitute by the lamented death of the Rev. Mr. Pierson.—I left Philadelphia on the 20th of November, by way of Baltimore, Norfolk, Elizabeth City, and Edenton ; at which last place, I officiated on the evening of the 29th, and arrived in Washington, on the 1st December.

Saturday, Dec. 2nd, performed divine service, and preached both morning and evening, in St. Peter's Church.

Sunday, the 3rd, divine service was performed in the forenoon; after which, I confirmed two persons, preached, and administered the holy communion to upwards of forty communicants, members of the Church, one new communicant being that day added.

In the evening, the services were repeated. The Church was filled both morning and evening, and the people much affected by the occasion—heightened no doubt by the recollection of him who was at all times so prompt to perform his duty, and so zealous for their spiritual advancement.

A day of heavy rain prevented the fulfilling my appointment at Zion Chapel, on Monday.

On the 5th, I left Washington for Bath, accompanied by Mr. Buxton. The services intended for the forenoon of this day, were obliged to be postponed to the afternoon, on account of a battalion muster. They were then performed, and a sermon preached to a small congregation.

On the 6th, I crossed the sound in a canoe to Durham's creek, a distance of eight miles; where I performed divine service, and preached in St. John's Church, to a small collection of the neighbourhood. In the evening I returned to Bath.

On the 7th, left Bath for Washington: on the evening of which day, I performed divine service, and preached in St. Peter's Church.

Dec. the 8th, met the congregation of Trinity Chapel, where I performed divine service, preached, and administered the holy communion, to the usual number of members, with some from St. Peter's. Since my last visit, the people have repaired the Chapel and made it much more convenient in its interior arrangements.

On the 9th, I arrived in Greenville, where I performed divine service and preached in the academy, in the evening, to the inhabitants of the place.

Sunday, the 10th, morning prayer was offered, and a sermon preached to a large congregation—a few only joined in the service; but all appeared attentive to the truths preached to them.

During my visit to this very interesting portion of the Diocese, the chief object of solicitude to them, and to me, was, the procurement of a person to supply the heavy loss they have sustained in the death of their late pastor: on this I found them all intent; and having ascertained from the different Vestries, the amount of salary which might be depended on, measures were taken to secure the services of a clergyman, recommended to them by myself—of whose acceptance of the call, I was very

sanguine; but in which we have both been disappointed. Exertions however continue to be made, but with what success I am not informed.

On the 11th, I left the neighbourhood of Greenville, and reached Raleigh the next day.

Having a spare Sunday, by reason of an appointment of the Rev. Mr. Green to officiate in Raleigh on the first Sunday in January, I took that opportunity to visit the congregations in Warrenton and Williamsborough—also left destitute, by the visitation of God, in the death of their valued and useful pastor, the Rev. Carolus C. Brainerd.

I left Raleigh accordingly, on the 3rd of January, reached Warrenton the next day, and having spent the intermediate time in intercourse with the members, we assembled at the Church on the 6th, when divine service was performed, and a sermon preached to a small congregation, occasioned by the uncommon severity of the weather.

On Sunday, the 7th, divine service was again performed by myself, a sermon preached, and the holy communion administered. The congregation was more numerous, and all the members were present at the communion, a few infirm persons excepted, who were detained at home by the severe cold.

I find this congregation somewhat depressed by the loss they have sustained; but steadfast in their attachment to the Church, and so sensible of the benefit of regular ministrations in religion, that they have come to the conclusion to procure a clergyman, if possible, whose whole time shall be devoted to them. To that end they have increased their subscription, and authorised me to procure a suitable person to take charge of the congregation. In this, however, I have been hitherto unsuccessful; nor is there any present prospect of a supply to this want.

On the 9th, I proceeded to Williamsborough, where the services intended for the next day, were disappointed through a misapprehension of the notice forwarded to them, on the 11th—however, which, proved a day of snow and rain, we assembled at St. John's Church, where I performed divine service, preached, and administered the holy communion to the few communicants who were present, not exceeding ten.

The situation of this congregation is at present rendered very unpleasant, and in no small degree precarious, by the determination of the Warrenton congregation to maintain a clergyman for themselves. The two have hitherto united, and formed one charge; to which they are competent without any severe pressure upon their pecuniary means. Upon the present plan I can see no prospect of advantage to either, but of certain loss to one, perhaps to both. I have therefore proposed to the Vest-

ty of Emmanuel Church, to reconsider their resolution, and return again to their former relation with St. John's, as the most likely means to secure the real welfare of both the congregations. To this proposition I have as yet received no answer. The Vestry of St. John's, however, have not abandoned the hope, or the desire, to secure the services of a clergyman; and have requested me to embrace the earliest opportunity of supplying their wants.

On the 12th, I left Williamsborough, much indisposed from exposure to the severe weather, and arrived in Raleigh the following day. My indisposition, however, continued gradually to increase, until I was rendered incapable of any active exertion through the greater part of the months of February and March and my intended visit to the western churches wholly precluded.

While labouring under the effects of this illness, I received the very unexpected intimation, that the Rev'd. Henry M. Mason intended to resign his charge of St. John's Church, Fayetteville, and on the 19th of March, I received a copy of his letter of resignation, from and after the meeting of this Convention, with a copy of a minute of vestry, accepting the same; so that that congregation is also vacant, and with no immediate prospect of being supplied.

My indisposition having yielded to the means made use of to counteract it, and sufficient strength being restored, by the goodness of God, to enable me to travel without inconvenience, I left Raleigh on the 25th April, in order to visit such congregations as were yet unattended to, and lay in my route to attend this Convention.

The Church in Fayetteville was the first, where I arrived on the 26th, and on the 28th, after the performance of divine service was performed by the Rev'd. Mason, I preached in the evening to a very attentive, but not a numerous congregation.

Sunday, the 29th, morning prayer was offered up by the Rev'd. Mr. Mason, after which, I confirmed two persons, and preached to a most respectable, and, apparently, engaged audience.

In the afternoon, the services were resumed, and a sermon again preached to the congregation.

Monday, the 30th, evening prayer was performed by the Rev'd. Mr. Mason; after which, I preached a sermon to a small, but attentive collection of the members of the Church.

The situation of this congregation at present, is particularly irksome. The resignation of their present pastor, coupled as it is with the recollection of how frequently they have had to encounter the difficulty and the delay of procuring a person to take charge of their spiritual concerns, has thrown a damp

over their feelings, which a sense of duty only can counteract. Upon this they are at present acting, in endeavouring to obtain a clergyman, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the approaching departure of the Rev'd Mr. Mason, equally unexpected by them and by myself. In this, I trust they will be successful, though, hitherto, they have found no one disposed to undertake the charge. In other respects, I have reason to believe, that the condition of the congregation is favourable, that the principles of the Church are better understood, and attachment to those principles increased; and though no strong excitement of religious feeling has been manifested—yet considerable interest has been shewed in favour of the Sunday School connected with the Church, and in spreading among the young and the ignorant, to whom access could be obtained, the saving truths of our holy religion.

May, the 1st, I took leave of Fayetteville, and proceeded on my route to Wilmington, where I arrived on Friday, the 3d; and on the 4th, after evening prayer by the Rev. Mr. Empie, I preached to a small, but devout collection of the people.

On the 5th, evening prayer was again performed by the Rev'd. Mr. Empie, after which, I again preached to a similar congregation.

After candle-light, I attended the weekly prayer meeting of the congregation, held this night at the house of Mr. Wright, where I read prayers, and preached a sermon to a large collection of people in the room, and in the piazzas of the house.

Sunday, the 6th, morning prayer was offered up by the Rev'd. Mr. Empie; after which, I confirmed twenty one persons, ten whites and eleven coloured persons; preached and administered the holy communion to upwards of one hundred communicants.

In the afternoon the services were repeated, and in both instances to a numerous and deeply engaged people.

Monday, the 7th, evening prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Empie, and a sermon preached by myself.

Much satisfaction has been experienced in my visit to this large and increasing congregation. The personal attachment of the members to their pastor—their attainments in christian knowledge and experience—their active exertions to communicate religious instruction by means of their Sunday School and catechetical classes, with the number of orderly and respectable coloured communicants, denote such an earnest and zealous engagement for the promotion of the Redeemer's kingdom, as was highly gratifying and refreshing to my spirit, and speaks a language not to be mistaken, as to the diligence and faithfulness of him, who is entrusted with their spiritual interests.

On the 8th, I left Wilmington for Newbern, where I arrived on the 11th, and on the 12th, met the congregation for divine service, which was performed by the Rev'd. Mr. Mason, and a sermon preached by myself to a very attentive, though not numerous audience.

Sunday the 13th, morning prayer was offered by the Rev'd. Mr. Mason; after which, I confirmed two persons and preached to a full congregation.

In the afternoon, divine service was performed by the Rev'd. Mr. Freeman, and a sermon preached by myself—and on Tuesday the 15th, the service and a sermon were again repeated to such of the members of the Church, as their business, and a rather unfavourable morning, permitted to attend.

So far as my own observation enables me to judge, and information has been obtained, the situation of this congregation is favourable and improving; the services on Sunday, were numerously attended, and engaged in with interest, and on the week days, as respectable congregations were convened, as is customary in any of our commercial towns.

Having thus detailed to their close the course of my official duties since the last Convention, it remains that I lay before you such further information on the state and prospects of the Diocese, as will enable you to take a correct view of its actual condition; and then to suggest such measures as, in my judgment, may tend to obviate some difficulties, under which we at present labour, and will have a tendency to promote the advancement of that cause, for the furtherance and prosperity of which we are convened.

The small, but very interesting congregation of Calvary Church, Wadesborough, left vacant by the removal of the Rev. Mr. Wright to Salisbury, has, during the past year, obtained the services of the Rev'd. Mr. Charles P. Elliott, of South Carolina for one Sunday in the month, and have forwarded to me a minute of their vestry announcing this arrangement, and with which I have expressed my entire satisfaction.

Two candidates for holy orders have received the necessary testimonials from the Standing Committee, and have been entered as such by me—viz. Mr. Francis L. Hawks, of this town, and Mr. Jarvis B. Buxton, of Washington.

The Rev'd. Mr. O. V. Howell, of the Diocese of New-York, has been employed as a missionary for six months from January last, and has been labouring in Scotland Neck and in Bertie County.

Three new Churches have been begun, and are in different degrees of forwardness to completion: one in Raleigh, one in Elizabeth City, and one for the congregation of Christ's Church,

Rowan, which last is so far finished, as to be occupied; and would have been consecrated this spring, had the state of my health permitted me to visit them. These indications of an increasing interest in favour of religion and of the Church, are confirmed by a corresponding increase of attachment to our principles: as these have become better known, they are better understood and felt, in their close and inseparable connection with that good hope, which heaven hath granted to a world of fallen sinners, through the appointments of the Gospel. And I have the satisfaction of being able to state, that a deeper sense of religious obligation, and a livelier state of religious feeling is arising throughout our communion. In this, the faithfulness of that little band of brothers, who labour in this portion of the Lord's vineyard, is manifested; and in the unequalled unanimity in which we are yoked together, I find a comfort and a consolation, and an encouragement which cheer and gladden my heart, and strengthen me to meet my various duties with that happy confidence which is inspired by harmonious counsels and united exertions.

With these blessings, which demand, and I trust draw forth, our highest thankfulness, there is, nevertheless, mingled such a portion of adversity, as to admonish us of the uncertainty which attends all sublunary things. God hath seen fit, in his inscrutable wisdom, to remove from us, by the hand of death, two most zealous and active ministers, whose qualifications were peculiarly suited to their respective spheres of duty, and whose memories will long be cherished in the strong affection entertained for them, by those among whom they laboured. The Rev. Mr. Pierson and the Rev. Mr. Brainerd, were permitted to remain but a little while with us; yet, in that little time, God enabled them to leave a record of diligence and faithfulness, the reward of which, we humbly trust, they now reap.

By this event, eight congregations, and nearly one fourth of the whole number of our communicants, have been deprived of the regular ministrations and ordinances of religion, for the greater part of the past year; and though I learn, since my arrival in this place, and with much satisfaction, that the Rev. Mr. Freeman has undertaken the charge of three of the late Mr. Pierson's congregations—the others are yet vacant, with no reasonable expectation of being speedily supplied. Notwithstanding every diligence has been used, various circumstances operate against our obtaining a supply of clergymen from other Dioceses. Among these, the opinion entertained of our climate, in the more northerly Dioceses, is ostensibly the chief; and however erroneous, is unhappily confirmed, by the decease of the two young and active clergymen, whom we so deeply la-

ment ; the other, and as is believed, the main objection, is the small amount of salary which the congregations in general are able, or disposed, to pay. Over the one, we possess no control : it is in the hand of God ; over the other, we do possess control ; for it is in our own hands ; and but very little is hazarded in asserting the opinion, that was the compensation more consistent with the office and its duties, the objection on the score of climate would, in a great degree, cease to operate.

But whatever weight may be attached to this opinion, the circumstances which have drawn them forth, cannot fail, I think, to suggest to this Body, and to the members of the Church in general, the great advantage which would be derived from encouraging the natives of the climate, who are assimilated to our manners and customs, and whom we might hope to retain among us, to devote themselves to this great and honourable work. For this purpose we possess very ample means—not only in the actual wealth of the members and friends of our communion, but in the resources already furnished, and the amount subscribed, and uncollected, to the friends of the General Seminary, by this Diocese. These would entitle us to the board and tuition of two candidates for the ministry in that institution, and would enable us to add to the number of our clergy, at the conclusion of every three years, two ministers, qualified to take charge of the congregations formed, or become vacant, in the interim, and to defend and to promote the great and inseparable interests of revealed religion and of the Church of Christ. I therefore feel it my duty to recommend this subject to the attention of this Convention, and to suggest the propriety of an enquiry into the state of the funds subscribed in this Diocese to the General Seminary, that they may be applied to their proper purpose, and form the basis of such plans, as common consent and a common interest shall devise, to carry into effect a measure so important to the common good.

Intimately connected with this subject, is that of the Episcopate ; and however delicate it may be for the incumbent of an office to draw attention to its actual condition, I feel that I must encounter it, both for your sakes and for my own.

Under the present arrangement, the duties required by the affairs of the Diocese, cannot be performed with the efficiency that is desirable, and which is, I trust, attainable. The short space of time which can be allotted to each, in visiting twenty-four congregations situated at such distances from each other, as 350 miles from east to west, and 220 from north to south, in 26 weeks, defeats, in a great degree, one very important purpose of the office I am entrusted with, and deprives me of that personal acquaintance with the great majority of those whose spiritual in-

terests are committed to my oversight; on which, much of the progress and prosperity of the Church must depend. But as your own experience of the ill effect of the hurried manner in which I am obliged to pass from place to place, must be sufficient to prove the propriety, not to say, the necessity, of taking the whole of my time to the affairs of the Diocese.—I will only enforce this proof, by presenting to your consideration the advantage which would be derived from it, to the congregations unexpectedly deprived of their pastors; as in the recent instances of Washington and Warrenton. This measure is also called for by the increasing business of the Diocese: the correspondence thereby occasioned, is of itself a considerable labour, and necessarily occupies much of that time and thought which, strictly speaking, are the property of my parish. A part, however, from all immediate considerations, the true interests of this Diocese call upon the Convention to adopt the most speedy method of rendering their Bishop independent of a parochial charge. All experience has proved, that where the two duties have been joined, neither have been fully executed; as either is sufficient to occupy the industry and ability of one person; both are too heavy a charge to be alike faithfully attended to; one, if not both, must suffer, and as the parish is that most likely to be neglected, parishes will learn to avoid the connection. If, therefore, it is the desire of this body to maintain the Church in this Diocese, and to transmit to their children the pure gospel of Jesus Christ: if it wishes to preserve what is already done, and to promote the progress of what is commenced, and promises so rich a harvest of private and public good, it will take this subject into effective consideration, and by establishing a fund for the support of the Episcopate, give stability to the Church, and thereby secure to posterity the benefit of those sound and scriptural services, through which, she inculcates the doctrines of pure and undefiled religion.

As the propositions from the General Convention, on the abridgment of certain parts of the daily service, at the discretion of the officiating minister, will necessarily claim some part of your attention at this session; and as it is proper that the Diocese at large should be enabled to consider the subject unbiassed by any erroneous representation, I take this method of laying it before you upon its actual grounds.

The propositions originated in the House of Bishops, and in so far as relates to the discretionary abridgment of the reading psalms and the proper lessons, were grounded on the principle of conciliation, to accommodate those who complain of the length of the service, and to permit that to be done by law, which was done by many without law, and was in truth a mea-

sure to relieve from the painful dilemma of knowingly permitting the laws of the Church to be disregarded, or of enforcing attention to the Rubrics upon a numerous, and it is to be feared an increasing body of our clergy. No alteration of the Liturgy was contemplated, neither is any effected, although the word has been largely used in reference to this subject. The question for your consideration is not an alteration of the Liturgy, but the policy of granting a discretionary power to shorten the service at the pleasure of the minister in certain specified parts thereof; and on this, you will of course be guided by a careful consideration of the advantage expected to be gained, compared with the price to be paid for it. Now this advantage, as appears to me, is the accommodation of some of our clergy, and of their occasional hearers, who are either of no religious persuasion, or of other denominations, by shortening the morning service about fifteen minutes at the utmost, in point of time, as the price of alarming the fears, and outraging the feelings of the great majority of the clergy, the communicants and members of the Church, and of introducing a diversity of practice in the public worship of God, which will ultimately unsettle the affections of Episcopalians towards the Liturgy, and end in surrendering it, with whatever is distinctive of our primitive and apostolic character, to the persevering attacks of our enemies, aided by the weak expectation of some who call themselves our friends, that these enemies are thus to be won over from their opposition to our principles. A subject which involves such weighty consequences, is entitled to mature consideration; and as it is not necessary that any decision should be made until the Convention of 1829, I would recommend that the propositions be inserted in the journal of our proceedings, for the consideration of the Church, that they may be acted upon with that unanimity which has hitherto attended all our proceedings, and which, I trust, will preside over our present counsels.

The parochial reports were next called for, and presented as follows :

CHRIST'S CHURCH, RALEIGH.

JOHN S. RAVENSCHROFT, *Rector.*

Baptisms,	.	.	.	.	.	3	Infants.
Confirmed,	.	.	.	.	.	2	
Communicants,	.	.	.	.	.	16	{ 3 removed & 2 added
Deaths,	.	.	.	.	.	none.	

The situation of the congregation remains much as it was

and considering the disadvantages under which it labours in the long and frequent interruption of the services, presents rather an encouraging prospect.—A very interesting class of young catechumens, consisting of about 18 boys and girls, are regularly attended to, and are coming forward rapidly in the exercises assigned them.

The building intended for a Church is commenced in a central and convenient situation; and expectation is sanguine, that it will have a favourable effect on the interests of the Church.

CHRIST'S CHURCH, NEWBERN.

REV. R. S. MASON, *Rector*.

Baptisms, Adults 1, Children 23—Total	24
Confirmed,	2
Marriages,	4
Burials,	10
Communicants,	68

Since the last Convention, 3 new communicants have been added, 2 have died, 1 has removed, and 2 have withdrawn from the communion. The congregation until lately, it is grievous and painful to state, has, it is to be feared, declined in zeal and piety; but it is hoped, that through the blessing of God, there is at present an increasing attention to the duties of religion—that by the divine mercy, we shall not only return and do our first works, but advance to greater heights of devotion to God than we have yet attained.

There are 30 catechumens. The rector here takes occasion to state, that one of the most pleasing, and, as he hopes, profitable exercises of his pastoral office, is the endeavour to train these young members of the Church *in the way they should go*.

A Working Society, consisting of many ladies of the congregation has been instituted for the purpose of procuring funds for different religious uses.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WILMINGTON.

REV. ADAM EMPIE, *Rector*.

Baptisms,	15	
Marriages,	5	
Deaths,	15	{ of these, 7 belonged to the parish.
Communicants,	136	

During the past year, 10 new communicants have been ad-

ded, 1 has died, 4 have removed, 2 are suspended, and 3 Africans have left us.

Sunday scholars and catechumens, 110.

The parish is, in other respects, as when last reported; and though there be considerable religious life, activity and zeal, these are confined to comparatively a few; and we most earnestly pray for their increase and extension.

Missionary collection,	\$28 35
Presented to the missionary fund by the Episcopal Working Association of Smithville, }	10 00
Dr. De Rosset's Subscription,	2 00
Total,	<hr/> \$40 35 <hr/>

This parish, besides making up the deficit of last year, has contributed this year its full quota to the contingent fund, and fund for the Episcopate.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, EDENTON.

REV. JOHN AVERY, *Rector*.

Baptisms, Adults 1, Children 9	
In Tyrrel County, 1	
In Washington, 1—Total 12	
Marriages,	1
Burials,	12
Communicants,	34

During the past year, 3 have been added to the communion, 2 have died, and 2 have removed.—Catechetical instructions are given every Sunday, and attended with general punctuality and interest, and promise to be useful.

The rector of this Church preaches usually once a week in the village of Hertford, to a small but attentive congregation.

CHRIST'S CHURCH, ELIZABETH CITY.

REV. PHILIP B. WILEY, *Deacon*.

Baptisms, Adults 2, Infants 2—Total 4	
Catechumens,	13
Confirmed,	3
Marriages,	2
Communicants,	12

The condition of this congregation may be seen by reference to the Episcopal Journal. Hopes are entertained that the Church now building will be ready for consecration in November next.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, HILLSBOROUGH.

REV. WILLIAM M. GREEN, *Rector*.

Baptisms,	. . . . .	4	Infants.
Confirmations,	. . . . .	7	
Communicants,	. . . . .	21—3	removed.
Deaths,	. . . . .	1	Infant.

Although the numerical increase of this congregation since the last Convention, is but small; yet its general condition is prosperous.—Lay reading has been very well attended, and a general and constant attention has been manifested in public worship.—A Bible class has been recently formed of some of the young adults of the congregation, and promises, with God's blessing, to be highly useful.

In this congregation, the Sunday School is deserving of especial notice: it is composed principally of the pupils of the Female Seminary, and is mostly under the control of the teachers of the same.—The progress of the pupils in religious knowledge, has been considerable during the past year; and the exercises of the whole school are so well ordered, as to promise abundant usefulness and profit to those who receive its instructions.

ST. MARY'S CHAPEL, ORANGE COUNTY.

Baptisms,	. . . . .	5	Infants.
Confirmed,	. . . . .	4	
Communicants,	. . . . .	14	
Deaths,	. . . . .	2	

This congregation remains nearly in the state reported at the last Convention. The Sunday School has been abandoned for a time, owing to the unavoidable absence of two of the ladies of the congregation who had the chief care of the school.

At Judge Cameron's, the baptisms have been 26 children, one only of which was white.—The Chapel erected by Judge Cameron will soon be prepared for consecration: it is a neat and pleasant place of worship, and reflects much credit on the individual by whom it has been erected.—The congregation here consists, for the most part, of coloured people.

At Milton, baptisms 2.

CHRIST'S CHURCH & ST. LUKE'S, ROWAN COUNTY.

REV. THOMAS WRIGHT, *Rector*.

Baptisms, St. Luke's, Salisbury,	3	} 13 Infants.
Christ's Church,	8	
Calvary Church,	2	

Deaths 1—Marriages 1.

Communicants, Christ's Church, 70

St. Luke's	17	{ 2 removed, and 8 added.
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In this part of God's vineyard, there is reason to hope, that the friends and members of the Church have not only increased in number, but are advancing in zeal and knowledge, growing in grace and holiness.

A commodious building; now ready for consecration, has been erected by the brethren of Christ's Church; and the congregation of St. Luke's, are making arrangements to rear a house of worship in Salisbury, on a lot of ground presented by Major Beard.

The rector of St. Luke's and Christ's Church, besides his regular ministrations in those Churches, has officiated during the past year, twice at Mockville, twice in Iredell, and four times at Wadesborough.—The occasional services heretofore rendered at Calvary Church, Wadesborough, have been discontinued since January last, when the Rev. Mr. Elliot, of the Diocese of South-Carolina, consented to officiate, monthly, for the little flock at Wadesborough.—This interesting little congregation, steadfast hitherto in the faith, it may be confidently hoped, will, under the influence of the spirit, and the teaching of their present pastor, continue to walk worthy of their calling.

Collections for the support of the Episcopate from

St. Luke's,	\$25 00
From Christ's Church,	20 00
	<hr/>
	\$45 00

Collections for contingent fund from St. Luke's,	\$5 00
From Christ's Church,	5 00
	<hr/>
	\$10 00

CALVARY CHURCH, WADESBOROUGH.

The congregation at this place, is composed of eight families. There are eleven communicants, and sixty regular attendants on public worship. A Sunday School has been lately organized by the Rev. Mr. Elliot, which at present consists of 25 children and four teachers.

The following gentlemen were then appointed a Committee on the state of the Church, viz: of the clergy, Rev. Messrs.

Empie, Avery, and Green; and of the Laity, Messrs. Bryan, Burgwin, and Hoyt.

On motion, *Resolved*, that the parochial reports be referred to the committee on the state of the Church.

Resolved, that so much of the Episcopal Journal as relates to the Church and Diocese generally, and the propositions of the last General Convention, be referred to the same Committee.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Empie, *Resolved*, that a Committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of proposing to the Missionary Society, of the Protestant Episcopal Church in North-Carolina, the adoption of some plan, the better to carry into effective operation the common designs of said Society, and of the Convention.

The following gentlemen were appointed on the committee: Rev. Vessis Empie, Freeman, and Richard S. Mason, of the clergy, and Dr. Thomas H. Wright, and Mr. Francis Hawks, of the laity.

The Convention then adjourned until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

At night, divine service was performed by the Rev. Henry M. Mason, and a sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Wiley, from St. Matthew, Ch. V. 11. and 12. verses.

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 18, 1827, }
9 o'clock. }

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer by the Right Rev. President:

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The Rev. Henry M. Mason, Rector of St. John's Church, Fayetteville, appeared and took his seat in the Convention.

Dr. Shadrack P. Allen, a delegate from St. James's Church, Greenville, appeared and took his seat.

The following gentlemen also appeared, produced certificates of delegation, and were received as members of the Convention:

Jarvis B. Buxton, from Zion Chapel, Beaufort County,

Jesse B. Bryan, from St. Thomas' Church, Bath.

Benjamin Patrick, from Trinity Chapel, Beaufort County.

The Rev. Mr. Empie, from the committee appointed at the last Convention to report to the present Convention Rules of Order, handed in a Report, and the house proceeded to the consideration thereof; but before completing the same, adjourned to attend divine service.

Morning prayer was performed by the Rev. Mr. Freeman,

and a sermon preached by the Rev. Henry M. Mason, from Genesis, Ch. XXV. 34. v.

After divine service, the Convention resumed the consideration of the Rules of Order, when, after sundry amendments, they were finally adopted as follows :

RULES OF ORDER.

1. The Convention, on the day appointed for its meeting, shall always open with prayer, and organize before morning service ; and the session of each subsequent day, shall likewise be opened with prayer.

2. At the opening of the Convention, as soon as the President takes the chair, the names of the clergy shall be called over by the Secretary of the preceding Convention ; or, in case of his absence, by a Secretary *pro. tem.* to be appointed by the President. The Lay Delegates shall then lay their certificates of appointment on the table of the Secretary ; after which, the President shall declare the Convention organized, and ready for business. A Secretary having then been chosen, the following committees shall be appointed by the chair : A Committee of Examination, consisting of three, to examine the testimonials of the Lay Delegates, and to report the number of Churches duly represented, together with the names of the representatives present. A committee of five, on the State of the Church, to whom shall always be referred the parochial reports ; and a Finance Committee of five, to whom shall be referred all accounts.

3. The subsequent general order of business in Convention shall be as follows :—1st, the Bishop's annual address ; 2d parochial reports ; 3d, report of the committee of examination ; 4th, report of all the standing officers of the Convention, and of the other committees, appointed the year preceding ; 5th, elections ; 6th, miscellaneous business ; 7th, reports of committees appointed during the session of the Convention.

4. All select committees shall be appointed by the President, unless otherwise ordered.

5. When the President takes the chair, no member shall continue standing, or shall afterwards stand up, except to address the chair.

6. Every member who shall deliver his opinion, or speak in any debate, shall stand up in his place : shall with due respect address himself to the President, and confine himself strictly to the point in debate.

7. If two or more members shall rise to speak at the same time, the President shall declare which shall speak first.

8. No member shall speak more than twice on the same point, without obtaining leave from the House; nor shall any member be interrupted while speaking in order.

9. While any member is speaking, and while the President is putting any question, all shall continue in their seats, and none shall hold any private discourse.

10. No motion shall be debated, or shall be considered as before the House, unless seconded; and if required, reduced to writing, and read by the Secretary.

11. When a motion is under consideration, no other motion shall be made except to amend, to divide, to commit, or to postpone it. A motion to adjourn, however, shall always be in order, and shall be decided without debate. A question on amendment must be decided before the original motion.

12. A question once determined, shall stand as the judgment of the Convention, and shall not be again drawn into debate, during the same session, except with the consent of two-thirds of the Convention.

13. No member shall be absent from the sessions of the Convention, unless he have leave, or be, from sickness, unable to attend.

14. Every day, during the session, there shall be public service, and a sermon, at 11 o'clock, A. M. and at night.

15. When the House is about to rise, every member shall keep his seat, until the President leaves his chair.

The Rev. Mr. Empie, from the Standing Committee, made the following report :

REPORT.

82. { The Standing Committee respectfully report, that they have, since the last Convention, granted testimonials to George W. Freeman, recommending him for Deacon's orders; and that Jarvis B. Buxton and Francis L. Hawks, have been recommended to the bishop as candidates for the ministry.—No other business has come before them.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for the Standing Committee, for the ensuing year, when the Rev. Messrs. Empie and R. S. Mason, of the clergy, and Messrs. Gavin Hogg, George W. B. Burgwin and James S. Green, of the laity, were duly elected.

The Rev. Mr. Empie, from the Committee on the State of the Church, made the following Report, which was adopted.

The Committee on the State of the Church, having had under consideration the several subjects submitted to them, respectfully present the following report :

REPORT.

As from several of the parishes, no parochial reports have been sent, it is obviously impossible to present, with much accuracy in this annual report, an aggregate or comparative estimate of the condition and progress of the Church in this Diocese.—As far, however, as any information has been laid before us from the different parts of the Diocese, it conveys the most cheering intelligence.—He who presides over the destinies of the Church, has said “let Jerusalem be rebuilt,” and our Zion is in consequence, with steady progress, shaking herself from the dust, putting on her beautiful garments, and coming forth in her strength.

We refer to the parochial reports, and particularly to the Journal of our beloved Diocesan, for proof, that our increase and prosperity are not merely nominal and external, but are associated with the enlightened and sanctifying religion of the heart. These we hail as the earnest of their stability and permanency.—Most pleasing indeed and consolatory are the numerous indications of increasing activity, zeal and holiness among the members of our communion.—And after the uniform progress which, God be thanked, our Church has for years been making in her march to a holier and happier condition, we hope that both her timorous friends, and her determined foes will be convinced, that notwithstanding their predictions to the contrary, Heaven has not destined her even to declension, much less to extinction. Her cause is the cause of God, her march is under the banner of Divine Providence; and He who has preserved her in the hour of peril, and darkness, and depression, stands pledged to protect her from all that would oppose her career towards her millennial glory.

Your Committee have observed, with much pleasure, that the parochial reports are not merely, as often has been the case, bare details of the number of marriages, births, funerals, and communicants, but contain likewise brief abstracts of the state of religion, and of the improvements that are introduced into each parish from year to year. These abstracts indeed that they may not become tedious, should be very much condensed, but it should be remembered, that no parochial report is complete without them; and as scarcely any returns have been made this year, of the number of adults in every parish, as required by our 5th canon, as well as by the 40th and 45th of the General Convention, we trust that that deficiency will not need to be noticed hereafter.

The friends of the Church, and of religion, must always de-

light to see an account of all the labours of love to which the ever active and fruitful principle of piety gives birth ; but we cannot help noticing, as preeminently important, the labours of Sabbath Schools, and the catechetical instructions of the rising generation.—It appears, from the documents before us, that these schools and instructions are increasing ; and such is the immense and happy influence which under God they may be made to exert upon both the Church and upon society at large, that they cannot be too earnestly recommended, or too sedulously promoted.—Sabbath scholars and catechumens are the green hope of our Churches ; and it is devoutly to be wished, that all the children of our parishes may be trained perseveringly and systematically, under the influence of all those advantages which the present improved state of society affords.

For other particulars on which your Committee deem remarks unnecessary, they refer to the graphic details presented by the parochial reports, and more especially by the deeply interesting and affecting Journal of our Diocesan.—In concluding this subject, however, though they feel incompetent to say what course ought to be pursued, they would most earnestly call the attention of this Convention to the means of supplying our destitute Churches : and they pray the great Head of the Church, in his infinite wisdom and goodness, to heal our wounds and to raise us up help.

On the subject of the resolutions which the late General Convention has submitted to the several State Conventions, and the consideration whereof has been referred to your Committee, they beg leave to Report :—

That in their opinion, it is not expedient to act on the resolutions at the present Convention, but that, according to the suggestion of our Diocesan, it is best to delay the adoption or rejection of these resolutions, so that all the members of the Church in this Diocess, may have time to give them a thorough examination.—Your Committee beg leave to observe in recommending a delay, that they think it proper to guard against any inference that the present Convention entertain *any* approbation of the proposed alterations of the Liturgy :—they mean merely by postponing the consideration of the subject to the next Convention, to obtain a deliberate expression of the sense of this Diocess.—They therefore recommend, that so much of the Journal of the last General Convention as relates to this subject, be printed with the minutes of this Convention.*

Respectfully submitted,

A. EMPIE, *Chairman,*

A Committee of Finance, consisting of the following persons, viz: the Rev. Messrs Empie and Green, of the clergy, and Messrs. Donnell, Bryan, Hoyt, and McRea, of the laity, were appointed.

The report of John W. Wright, Esq. treasurer of the Convention, was presented by the Rev. H. M. Mason, and referred to the Committee of Finance.

In consequence of the treasurer being absent, it was, on motion, *resolved*, that a receiver of monies, payable at this Convention, be appointed to receive the sums due, and pay over the same to the treasurer of the Convention. Whereupon the Rev. H. M. Mason was appointed.

The Rev. H. M. Mason then presented the parochial report of

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, FAYETTEVILLE.

Baptisms,	. . . . .	14
Marriages,	. . . . .	4
Burials,	. . . . .	2
Communicants,	. . . . .	59

The orderly deportment of this congregation, during their attendance on public worship, and the interest they appear to take in the liturgical services, has been very gratifying to their pastor. Sudden excitements of whatever kind, are of suspicious duration; and I am by no means inclined, from the want of them among us, to doubt that the spirit of piety exists among my flock.—Some of our communicants have removed to a distance, one only has died, and with an error in the last report, I find there has been an increase of five in the present year. Under able and zealous teachers, our Sunday School prospers, and now numbers upwards of sixty, who regularly receive catechetical instruction.

The contributions to the Episcopal and Contingent Funds were then called for, and the following sums were paid in:

	Epis. Fund.	Con. Fund.
By St. James' Church, Wilmington,	\$150 50*	\$25 00
By St. John's Church, Fayetteville,	110 00	25 00
By Christ's Church, Newbern,	110 00	25 00
By St. Matthew's, St. Mary's, and St. Jude's, Orange county,	40 00	10 00
By St. Luke's, Salisbury, and Christ's Church, Rowan county,	50 00	

* See Parochial Report of St. James' Church, Wilmington

St. Paul's church, Edenton, Christ's church, Raleigh, and Christ's church, Elizabeth City, had paid in advance, to both the Episcopal and Contingent Funds, the full amount of their assessment. St. Luke's church, Salisbury, and Christ's church, Rowan, had paid in advance to the contingent fund.

The Convention then adjourned until 9 o'clock the following morning.

At night, divine service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Wiley, and a sermon delivered by the Rev. Mr. Wright, from Ezekiel, 37 chap. 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th verses.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 19. }
9 o'clock.

The minutes of the preceding day were read and approved. Mr. Francis Hawks being called off on publick business, asked and obtained leave of absence.

A certificate of delegation from Christ's church, Raleigh, was presented, and Gavin Hogg, a delegate from that congregation, appeared and took his seat.

On motion, it was then Resolved, that Mr. Hogg be added to the committee of Finance.

Resolved, that so much of the bishop's journal as relates to the fund for the support of a bishop, be referred to the committee of Finance.

The committee appointed to examine into the expediency of proposing to the Missionary Society, the adoption of some plan, the better to carry into effective operation, the designs of said society, *reported*,

That they deem it inexpedient, at present, to make such a proposition to the Missionary Society.

Leave of absence was asked and obtained for Mr. John H. Bryan.—The House then adjourned to attend divine service.

Morning service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Green, and a sermon delivered by the Rev. Mr. Empie, from Prov. 23. 17.

After service, the House again assembled for business.

On motion of the Rev. R. S. Mason, it was *Resolved*, that the House do now proceed to the consideration of the place and time of holding the next Convention.

After some discussion whether Fayetteville or Salisbury should be the place, it was finally *Resolved*, that the next convention be holden at Fayetteville, on Thursday, May 22, 1828.

The House next proceeded to ballot for the delegates to the General Convention; and on counting the votes, it appeared that the Rev. Adam Empie, R. S. Mason, Wm. M. Green and

John Avery, of the clergy, and Messrs. Gavin Hogg, John R. Donne l, G. E. Badger, and Josiah Collins, of the Laity, were duly elected.

Mr. Norwood, from St. Matthew's, Hillsboro' proposed the following canon, which was passed.

Canon to regulate Elections.

In all cases of voting for appointments, before the Convention, a majority of the votes of the members present, at the time of voting, shall be necessary to constitute an election.

The Convention then adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock, on Monday morning.

On Sunday morning, divine service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Empie, and a sermon delivered by the bishop from Jno. XV. part of 5th verse.—The Rev. Geo. W. Freeman, deacon, was admitted to the Holy Order of the Priesthood, and the communion administered to about 80 recipients.

In the afternoon, divine service by the Rev. Mr. Wright, and a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Freeman, from James, chap. 4—verses 13, 14, and 15.

At night, prayers by the Rev. Mr. Avery, and a sermon by the Rev. H. M. Mason, from Gen. c. 3. part of 15 v.

MONDAY MORNING, MAY 21. }
8 o'clock, }

The House met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Wiley.—The minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

Jarvis B. Buxton from Zion chapel, and Benjamin Patrick from Trinity chapel, Beaufort county, asked and obtained leave of absence.

The Rt Rev. President, from the board of managers of the Missionary Society, presented the following Report :

REPORT.

The Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Diocess of North-Carolina, Report to this Convention,

That during the past year, the services of a Missionary were obtained for six months, from the 1st of January last, which services were appropriated to that section of the Diocess comprised within the counties of Edgecombe, Martin, Halifax, and Bertie ; but as no return has been made by the Missionary, they are unable to state the result of his labours. Their views, howe-

ver, are steadily directed to fulfil the objects of their organization ; and, though the prospects are not more favourable than heretofore, that they will be able to obtain persons to serve as Missionaries, they yet feel that it is their duty to persevere—trusting in the Providence and direction of the great Head of the Church for the infusion of that spirit of zeal for his service, unto the hearts of the young, active, and unencumbered portion of the clergy, which shall send them forth into the destitute and desolate quarters of the vineyard, to build up the waste places thereof.

The officers of the society for the present year, are composed of the same persons as last year, with the exception of such changes, as death and removal rendered necessary. These are, the election of the Rev. R. S. Mason in the room of the Rev. Mr. Pierson, deceased, of the Rev. Mr. Wright, in the room of the Rev. Henry M. Mason, removed ; and the appointment of the Rev. R. S. Mason, as Secretary. The officers of the society, for the present year, therefore, are the following :

RIGHT REV. JOHN S. RAVENSCROFT, *President.*

DR. A. D. J. DE ROSSETT,	}	<i>Vice Presidents.</i>
JOSIAH COLLINS,		
MOSES JARVIS,		

REV. RICHARD S. MASON, *Secretary.*

JOHN W. WRIGHT, *Treasurer.*

RIGHT REV. JOHN S. RAVENSCROFT,	}	<i>Board of Managers.</i>
REV. ADAM EMPIE,		
REV. RICHARD S. MASON,		
REV. THOMAS WRIGHT,		

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN S. RAVENSCROFT, *President.*

After the reading of the Report of the Missionary Society, the following Resolutions were passed :

Resolved, That 600 copies of the Journals, be ordered to be printed.

Resolved, That the President of the Convention be, and is hereby authorised to draw on the Treasurer in favour of Josiah Collins and Walker Anderson, Esqrs., for such sums as they may have expended on behalf of this Diocess, at the General Convention.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention do transmit, annually, to each of the bishops, and to the Secretary of each Diocesan Convention, and to the Secretary of the General Convention, a copy of the Journals of this Convention, and invite an exchange.

Resolved, That the alteration proposed by the last General Convention, in the 8th article of the constitution, be printed with the Journals of this Convention, for the consideration of the members of the Church in this Diocese.*

Resolved, That the canon adopted at the last General Convention, "regulating the admission of persons as candidates for Holy Orders, and the time in which they are to continue candidates before their ordination," be printed with the Journals of this Convention.†

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of so regulating the meetings of the Convention, that they may be held in the Eastern and Western sections of the State alternately, and report to the next Convention.

The following persons were appointed on the Committee : the Rev. Messrs. Wright and Avery, of the clergy, and Messrs. John Beard, George W. B. Burgwyn, and William H. Haywood, of the laity.

The House then adjourned to attend divine service.

Morning prayer by the Rev. Mr. Freeman, and a sermon by the bishop, and two persons were confirmed.—After service, the House resumed business.

The Rev. Mr. Empie, from the Finance Committee, then presented the following report :

REPORT.

The Committee of Finance beg leave to report, That they have examined the Treasurer's accounts, and find them correct.

They have taken into consideration the present state of the fund for the support of the Episcopate, and find it to be worth the sum of \$6,759 84 cents, as per statement herewith submitted, marked (I.)‡.

Your Committee see, with much regret, that the assessment made by the last Convention for the support of the Episcopate, and for the contingent expenses of the Convention, have not been paid by all the congregations, but that several are in arrears for the whole or part of the sums assessed to be paid by them. At the last Convention the congregations were in arrears on their assessments for the same purposes, \$414 ; which constituted an item in the account of the state of the fund for the Episcopate, then reported by the Committee of Finance. The Convention omitted to have any measures taken to collect said sum ; and your Committee are of opinion, that it cannot now be collected without requiring of the members of the congregations more than they could conveniently pay : your Committee have, therefore,

* See Appendix B. † See Appendix C. ‡ See Appendix D.

considered said sum due before last Convention, as entirely lost ; and have taken no account of it in the present state of the fund for the Episcopate. They have, however, taken an account of the sums in arrear for 1826—1827, and find it to be \$245 as per account marked (II.)* : and they recommend that a resolution be passed, making it the duty of the Treasurer, immediately on the rise of the Convention, to forward an account of the sums due for arrearages, and also the account of the assessments laid by the Convention, to the pastor of each congregation ; and where, from any cause, there is no pastor in the charge of the congregation, to some member of the Church, and request the pastor, or such member, to use his influence with the congregation to have the account paid.

The Committee have made the assessments for the support of the Episcopate, and for contingent expenses for 1827—1828, marked (III. and IV.),† and they are herewith submitted.

Your Committee have under consideration the proposition to afford the bishop a salary adequate to his support, and to relieve him from parochial duty ; and they have given to it the attention required by its importance, and by the interest felt in it by the Convention, and by the members of the Church throughout the Diocess. Your Committee have devised a plan whereby, they hope, under the blessing of God, and with the cordial co-operation of the friends of the Church, the object may be attained.

The Episcopal fund is now worth \$6,500, in round numbers, and if, by subscription, the sum of \$5000 or \$6000 can be procured, the interest of these sums, with a moderate annual assessment, will raise \$1,200, with which sum, the bishop, it is understood, will be content, and which is certainly a small sum for the support of a respectable family. Your Committee, therefore, recommend, that some proper person be appointed by the Convention to accompany the bishop on a mission throughout the Diocess, for the purpose of soliciting further subscriptions, in aid of the fund for the Episcopate ; and that the bishop be requested, by this Convention, to proceed on said mission, as soon after autumn, as a proper attention to the state of health, in the low country, will permit. Your Committee further recommend, that after the next Convention, if a sufficient fund be raised for the support of the bishop, that a committee be appointed, on the part of the Convention, to enter into a contract with him, whereby his services will be secured exclusively to the Diocess. Your committee further recommend that some clergyman be requested to prepare an address to the members of the

* See Appendix D. † See Appendix D.

Church, to forward the subscription, and that the said address be published with the proceedings of this Convention.

Your committee further recommend that the collection of the arrears due on the subscription for the support of the Episcopate, be pressed with all diligence; and that if any thing remain due in the autumn, that the subscription list be handed over for collection to the person appointed to solicit new subscriptions.

The committee pray to be discharged from the further consideration of the subscriptions from this Diocese, to the fund for the Theological Seminary, and that the same be referred to a committee at the next Convention of this Diocese.

The committee further recommend, that at all succeeding Conventions, a collection be made in aid of the contingent expenses of the same. All which is respectfully submitted.

ADAM EMPIE, *Chairman.*

The above report, on the vote being put, was accepted, and agreeably to the recommendations contained therein: It was *resolved*, that Mr. Francis L. Hawks be appointed to accompany the bishop on a mission for the obtaining of new subscriptions.

Resolved, That the Rev. Mr. Empie do prepare an address to the members and friends of the Church on the subject.

Resolved, That 1000 copies of the said address be printed; that 600 copies thereof be appended to the Journals, one copy of the address for each copy of the Journals; that the remaining 400 copies be judiciously otherwise distributed by the Secretary.

Resolved, That the said address be read, on some occasion of publick worship, by every clergyman of the Diocese, to the congregation or congregations over which he may preside.

J. W. Wright was then unanimously re-elected treasurer of the Convention, and it was

Resolved, unanimously, that the thanks of the Convention be tendered to Mr. Wright for the important services he has rendered as treasurer to this Convention.

The following canon was then proposed by the Hon. J. R. Donnell, and passed.

Canon authorizing the Treasurer to invest the money belonging to the Convention.

The Treasurer of the Convention shall, from time to time, invest in stock, or put out to interest, on good security, as he may deem most advantageous, all monies in the treasury not especially appropriated, and all sums received for the use of the Episcopate.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Green, *resolved*, unanimously, that the thanks of this Convention be given to the inhabitants of Newbern, for their kind and hospitable entertainment of the members of this Convention, and that the Rev. R. S. Mason, be requested to make known this resolution in a public manner.

The Convention having then closed its business, adjourned with prayer and the benediction of the bishop.

R. S. MASON, *Secr'y. of the Convention.*

APPENDIX.

A.

Extract from the Journal of the House of Bishops.

“ On motion of the Right Rev. Bishop Hobart, *resolved*, That the House of Bishops propose the following preambles and resolutions to the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies :

“ The House of Bishops, deeply solicitous to preserve unimpaired the Liturgy of the Church, and yet desirous to remove the reasons alleged, from the supposed length of the service, for the omission of some of its parts, and particularly for the omission of that part of the communion office, which is commonly called the *ante-communion*, do *unanimously* propose to the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies, the following resolutions, to be submitted to the several State Conventions, in order to be acted upon at the next General Convention, agreeably to the eighth article of the Constitution.

“ 1. Resolved, that in ‘ The order how the Psalter is appointed to be read,’ the following be added to the fourth paragraph — ‘ or any other psalm or psalms, except on those days on which proper psalms are appointed :’ — so that the whole paragraph will read as follows. — ‘ The minister, instead of reading from the Psalter, as divided for daily morning and evening prayer, may read one of the selections set out by this Church, or any other psalm or psalms, except on those days on which ‘ proper psalms’ are appointed.’

“ 2. Resolved, that in ‘ The order how the rest of the holy Scripture is appointed to be read,’ the following be inserted after the fifth paragraph :— ‘ The minister may, at his discretion, instead of the entire lessons, read suitable portions thereof, not less than fifteen verses. And on other days than Sundays and holy days, in those places where morning and evening prayer is not daily used, he may read other portions of the Old and New Testament instead of the prescribed lessons ; it being recommended that, unless circumstances render it inexpedient, on the stated prayer days of Wednesdays and Fridays, the lessons for those days, or for one of the intervening days, be read.’

"The Bishops, in the use of the office of Confirmation, finding that the preface is frequently not well suited to the age and character of those who are presented for this holy ordinance, *unanimously* propose the following resolution :—

3. "Resolved, that after the present preface in the office of Confirmation, the following be inserted, to be used instead of the former, at the discretion of the Bishop :—' It appears from holy Scripture, that the apostles laid their hands on those who were baptized ; and this ordinance, styled by the apostle Paul, the 'laying on of hands,' and ranked by him among the principles of the doctrine of Christ, has been retained in the Church, under the name of *Confirmation* ; and is very convenient, and proper to be observed, to the end that persons being sufficiently instructed in what they promised, or what was promised for them in their baptism, and being, in other respects, duly qualified, may themselves, with their own mouth and consent, openly before the Church, ratify and confirm the same, and also promise, that by the grace of God, they will evermore endeavor themselves faithfully to observe such things as they, by their own confession, have assented unto."

"And to correct the injurious misapprehension, as to the meaning of certain terms, in the first collect in the office of Confirmation, the Bishops *unanimously* propose the following resolution :—

"4. Resolved, that after the first collect in the office of confirmation, the following be inserted, to be used at the discretion of the Bishop, instead of the first collect, ' Almighty and everliving God, who hast vouchsafed, in baptism, to regenerate these thy servants, by water and the Holy Ghost ; thus giving them a title to all the blessings of thy covenant of grace and mercy, in thy Son Jesus Christ, and now dost graciously confirm unto them, ratifying the promises then made, all their holy privileges ; grant unto them, we beseech thee, O Lord. the renewing of the Holy Ghost ; strengthen them with the power of this divine Comforter ; and daily increase in them thy manifold gifts of grace, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness ; and fill them, O Lord, with the spirit of thy holy fear, now and for ever. Amen.'

"*And whereas*, in the opinion of the Bishops, there is no doubt as to the obligation of ministers to say, on all Sundays and other holy days, that part of the communion office which is commonly called the ante-communion, yet as the practice of some of the clergy is not conformable to this construction of the rubric on this point, the House of Bishops propose the following resolution :—

"5. *Resolved*, that the following be adopted as a substitute for the first sentence in the rubric, immediately after the communion office :—

" 'On all Sundays and other holy days shall be said all that is appointed at the communion, unto the end of the Gospel, concluding divine service, in all cases when there is a sermon or communion, and when there is not, with the Blessing.' "

Extract from the Journal of the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies.

"The resolutions received from the House of Bishops, on the subject of the Psalter, &c. being under consideration, it was *resolved*, that this House concur in the resolutions of the House of Bishops."

B.

Extract from the Journal of the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies.

"*Resolved* by the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies, the House of Bishops concurring, that it be made known to the several State Conventions of this Church, that it is proposed to consider of, and determine on, at the next General Convention, the propriety of altering the second clause of the eighth article of the Constitution of this Church, by adding the words, *or the articles of religion*, after the words, 'other offices of the Church.' "

Extract from the Journal of the House of Bishops.

"A resolution was received from the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies, proposing to make known to the several State Conventions, a proposition to consider of, and determine on, the expediency of altering the second clause of the eighth article of the Constitution of this Church ; which was concurred in by this house."

C.

Canon passed in General Convention, 1826.

Regulating the Admission of Persons as Candidates for Holy Orders, and the time in which they are to continue Candidates before their Ordination.

Every person who desires to become a candidate for orders in this Church, shall, in the first instance, give notice of his intention to the Bishop, or, if there be no Bishop, to such body

as the Church in the Diocese or State in which he intends to apply, may appoint; and if, after obtaining the canonical testimonials from the Standing Committee, he be admitted as a candidate by the Bishop, or if there be no Bishop, by such body as the Church in the Diocese or State in which he intends to apply may appoint, he shall remain a candidate for the term of three years before his ordination, unless the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the clerical members of the Standing Committee, shall deem it expedient to ordain the candidate, after the expiration of a shorter period, not less than one year.

The first paragraph of the 7th canon of 1808, and the first canon of 1823, are hereby repealed.

D.—No. I.

State of the Episcopal Fund.

Amount due on subscription, June 1st, 1823,	\$ 94 00
ditto do. June 1st, 1824,	268 00
ditto do. June 1st, 1825,	678 00
ditto do. June 1st, 1826,	988 00
ditto do. June 1st, 1827,	1067 00
Fifteen Shares of Stock of State Bank of N. C.	1500 00
Six Shares of Stock of Bank of Cape Fear,	548 00
Cash in the hands of the Treasurer,	441 00
Cash in the hands of the Agent,	865 00
Amount due on assessments for the support of the Bishop,	220 00
Amount due on assessment for 1826—1827, for contingent expenses,	25 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 6694 84

No. II.

Account of the Sums due on the assessments for the support of the Bishop, and for the Contingent Fund, for 1826—1827.

— St. Matthew's, St. Mary's, and St. Jude's, Orange co.	\$30 00
St. Luke's, Salisbury, Christ's Church, Rowan co. and St. Matthew's, Burke co.	20 00
St. Peter's, Washington, St. Thomas's, Bath, Trinity Church, Beaufort co., Zion Church, Beaufort co., and Christ's Church, Greenville,	70 00
St. John's Church, Williamsboro',	35 00
Emmanuel Church, Warrenton,	35 00
Calvary Church, Wadesboro',	20 00
St. Paul's Church, Milton,	10 00
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	\$220 00

Contingent Fund.

St. Peter's Church, Washington,	\$10 00
St. John's Church, Williamsboro'	5 00
Emmanuel Church, Warrenton,	5 00
Calvary Church, Wadesborough,	5 00
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	\$25 00

Nos. III. and IV.

Assessment for 1827—1828, for the support of the Bishop.

St. James' Church, Wilmington,	\$110 00
Christ's Church, Newbern,	10 00
St. John's Church, Fayetteville,	110 00
St. Paul's Church, Edenton,	110 00
Christ's Church, Raleigh,	70 00
— St. Matthew's, Hillsboro', St. Mary's and St. Judes, } Orange co.	70 00
St. Luke's, Salisbury,	35 00
Christ's church, Rowan,	25 00
St. Andrew's, Burke,	10 00
St. Peter's, Washington, Trinity chapel, Beaufort co. } Zion Church, Beaufort co. St. Thomas's, Bath, } and St James', Greenville,	70 00
Emmanuel church, Warrenton,	35 00
St. John's church, Williamsboro',	35 00
Christ's church, Elizabeth City,	25 00
St. Paul's church, Milton,	10 00
Calvary church, Wadesborough,	15 00
White Haven church and Smyrna church,	5 00
St. Peter's, Lexington,	10 00
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	\$855 00

Contingent Fund for 1827—1828.

St. James' church, Wilmington,	\$25 00
Christ's church, Newbern,	25 00
St. John's church, Fayetteville,	25 00
St. Paul's church, Edenton,	25 00
Christ's church, Raleigh,	10 00
— St. Matthew's, St. Mary's, and St. Jude's, Orange co.	10 00
St. Luke's, Salisbury, and Christ's church, Rowan co.	10 00
St. Peter's, Washington, and the churches in Beaufort co.	15 00
Emmanuel church, Warrenton, & St. John's, Williamsbo'.	10 00
Calvary church, Wadesboro',	5 00
Christ's church, Elizabeth City,	5 00
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	\$165 00

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN.

That the next Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, of the Diocess of North-Carolina, will be holden in St. John's Church, Fayetteville, on Thursday, May 22d, A. D. 1828.

R. S. MASON, Secretary.

ADDRESS

*To the Members and Friends of the Protestant Episcopal
Church, in the Diocese of N. C.*

BRETHREN,

We address you on a subject that must be dear to the heart of every Christian. We appeal once more to a community, which already stands high for its liberality to the Church. The prosperity of our Church, we know, you most earnestly desire. To this we could not be indifferent, without incurring the crime, of being indifferent to all that is useful, to all that is good, and to all that heaven has enjoined. The age has gone by when an utter disregard to the religion and the Church of Christ, was deemed innocent. The minds of men have been generally opened, to see and acknowledge that it is disreputable to refuse their countenance and support, to the common religion of our Country. As Christians then, and as friends of the Protestant Episcopal Church, we address you; and we respectfully solicit your aid, in advancing the welfare of Society, and the eternal salvation of souls, by your endeavours to advance the prosperity of that Church. On this subject, we need not open our ears to objections. There can be no objection against doing good, and promoting the cause of religion. We stay not to advance arguments. You need no arguments, Brethren, to convince you, that you ought to be good Churchmen; or that you ought to countenance and support, the common religion of your Country. We are persuaded you cannot but approve, and approving, we trust, you cannot but yield your liberal support, to the measure we propose.

What then, it will be asked, is the object you have in view? It is this. To promote the prosperity of religion and of our Church, by giving our Bishop an

independent salary; so as to free him from Parochial duties, and enable him to devote *the whole of his time*, to the care of the Churches. His duties heretofore, have been too laborious; and his health has been sinking under them. His labours being divided between his Parish and his Diocess, it was not possible for him to do full justice to either. The Church will be *immensely a gainer*, by this measure. And those, in different parts of the state, who value the Bishop's society and services, will have it in their power to enjoy more of both.

By one generous effort of the friends of our Church, this object may easily be accomplished; and it will secure to our Diocess, a preeminence, as honorable as it is desirable. Though one of the youngest in the union, she will then have the honor, one of the oldest diocesses excepted, of being the first which has made its Bishop independent—has exalted the Episcopate to its proper character—and left it unencumbered with any duties except such as are strictly and exclusively Episcopal.

Friends of religion and of the Church, need we urge this measure upon you, any further? If you wish to secure the *effective services* of your Bishop, and raise our Church *completely* from the dust, release him from his Parish duties. His labours through the Diocess will be more valuable, than those of *many* missionaries. Consider what he has already done and suffered for you—the good, which, through God's blessing he has already effected—and the sacrifices which he has been called to make. Consider what the Episcopal office ought to be, and what you have it in your power to make it. Christ never intended his Bishops to be Parish Priests; but to have the care and superintendence of all the Churches: and yet there is not, at this moment, one single Bishop, in our Country, who has nothing but Episcopal services to perform, or who is not *obliged* to resort to something besides his Episcopal Office, in order to gain a livelihood. Both under the old and new Testament, God has made the most ample provision for the support of his ministers; and among the primitive Christians as well as among the

Jews, one fifth even of their yearly income, was cheerfully given for this purpose. Are we not equally bound with them, to grant a liberal support to those, whom God has sent to labour for our salvation ; and shall we not give some of our abundance, for the purpose of raising our Church, by a single effort, to that dignified and independent station which she ought to occupy? O that the great Head of the Church, may pour out his spirit upon us, and subdue our hearts to the love of his cause, and the obedience of his will !

Individuals are found, among other demoninations, who, with immortalizing munificence, gave thousands and tens of thousands for such purposes. While our Church is notoriously as wealthy as any other, shall we give them cause to say, as some have said, that we are inferior to them, in public religious spirit, in zeal, in liberality, and in a regard for the prosperity of our Zion? God forbid my Brethren! Disprove the slander by your present liberality. Be assured you will never repent of such an act. You will reflect upon it with pleasure in the hour of death; and if it springs from faith, you will reap the reward of it in Heaven. Remember too, that you are *bound to this by the highest authority in the universe*. God has ordained, that “they who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel.” And if our Bishop preaches over the whole Diocess, the whole Diocess ought to join in giving him a comfortable support.

It is for the Church of your Fathers, that we are pleading. Will you not contribute to build up the dilapidated altars, at which they worshipped? From the regions of blessedness, the pious dead are looking down upon you, anxious to see you honour the religion they professed, and support the Church which they loved. Can you disappoint their hopes, and continue regardless of the solemn vows they made for you in baptism? While thousands are squandered on trifles, have you nothing to “lend unto the Lord?” Have you no treasures you wish to lay up in heaven? and do you not know that God has promised to stand your security, and to pay you again in another world, all that you spend in his service here?

Blessed Redeemer! hast thou shed thy blood and laid down thy life for us, and shall we refuse to give thee of our treasures, to carry on thy work of love among mankind? Forbid it heaven! Give then, Christian, in proportion as you love the Church; and in proportion as Christ and his Gospel are precious. Give, according to the love you ought to bear towards Him who commands you to do good. Give accordingly *as you value your own soul and your own salvation.*

